

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The paper reflects on the status of the coal industry in the country, mentions the policy initiatives already in place such as foreign direct investment and status of private mining for captive end-use and the new policy initiatives such as introduction of Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 to allow non-captive coal mining by Private Sector, complete overhaul of regulatory framework, pricing of non-coking coal on GCV basis, level playing field for the private sector, railway freight rationalisation and extension of incentives/financial concession to coal sector. Other major issues relevant to making the Indian Coal Competitive have also been mentioned.

(c) The new policy initiatives mentioned therein alongwith the issues raised relevant to making Indian Coal Competitive have engaged the attention of the Government.

(d) and (e) The domestic coal industry requires substantial relief from the burden of high Railway freight. The Government is already seized of the matter.

Effect of Non-Posting of Regular CMD's in Subsidiaries of CIL

4263. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that working of subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. are affected due to non-posting of regular CMD's for quite long period;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in the posting of CMD's in these subsidiaries;

(c) whether appointment committee of cabinet is considering the names short listed by Public Enterprise Selection Board for the post of Chairman, CIL and its subsidiaries; and

(d) if so, time by when full time official will be posted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) At the level of

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RAJYA SABHA

CMD, only the posts of CMD, WCL and CMD, MCL have to be filled up on substantive basis.

The ACC has taken a decision in respect of WCL. Issue of orders is held up because of on going litigation in the Delhi High Court.

For MCL, recommendations of the PESB were received in December, 2000. Vigilance clearance was received last month. The matter is now being referred to the ACC.

Restructuring and Liberalising Coal Sector

4264. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for restructuring and liberalising the coal sector in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have received a number of representation and petitions in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating *inter-alia* the reasons therefor;

(d) whether liberalisation and restructuring of coal sector would necessitate amendments to the existing Coal Mines Nationalisation Act;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by when amending Bill is likely to be brought forward before Parliament in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Representations have been received from some trade union organisations opposing the opening up of the various areas of national economy, including coal, to the private sector. The AH India Workers' Federation, a trade union organisation affiliated to CITU, went on strike from 20th November, 2000 to 22nd November, 2000 in support of number of demands which included opposition to the private sector's entry in coal mining. Some of reasons for opposition